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April 12, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

UD-SPONSORED GALA A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT, REVITALIZATION

DAYTON, Ohio — For the last few years, the University of Dayton has been involved in several major initiatives to help surrounding communities revitalize their neighborhoods — their homes, their businesses and their schools.

This spring, UD students will bring together folks from those communities to celebrate successes and prepare for more.

Sponsored by the Rubicon House and the Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership at UD, the community celebration will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at Patterson Kennedy International Heritage Academy, 258 Wyoming Street. The event will include an ice cream social, a student art show and a concert featuring students from the UD jazz ensemble and music therapy program.

Brother Vic Forlani, S.M., who teaches a "Managing the Enterprise" management and marketing course and whose students have coordinated the celebration as a service-learning project, said it is designed to bring together the residents and business people from the University neighborhoods involved in revitalization — the Historic South Park and Fairgrounds neighborhood associations, the Wayne Avenue and Brown-Warren business associations and Patterson Kennedy, which serves them all.

"We're very excited about what's been going on in these neighborhoods," Forlani said. "It's obvious that our neighbors are taking pride in their efforts, and this celebration will give them a chance to show off what they've been doing and build some excitement for future plans."

Natalie Jaycox, graduate assistant to Forlani and one of the six students involved in coordinating the celebration, said the event will also serve as a valuable networking tool. "UD has played a big role in helping our neighborhoods revitalize and we've seen a lot of successes in the last year. But even though these neighborhood groups have a lot in common and are working toward the same goals, they've not had the opportunity to work together.

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"The celebration will be a good way to bring people together to get to know one another, share success stories and share resources as well. Each of the associations involved will have a display table set up with information available for others."

Forlani said his management students are involved in six neighborhood service-learning projects this semester.

"This is a great generation of students," he said. "Their response to service-learning opportunities has been good, and I believe they have a real sense that what they are doing is helping."

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For media interviews, contact **Brother Vic Forlani, S.M.**, at (937) 229-3556 or via e-mail at victor.forlani@notes.udayton.edu and **Natalie Jaycox** at (937) 229-3701 or via e-mail at natalie.jaycox@notes.udayton.edu.

Students in Marjorie Task's English 272 composition course wrote "Letters to the Future." Three won cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25, but all nine will be included in the time capsule, according to Kenneth Kuntz, chair of the sesquicentennial celebration team. Task suggested that the students write "a straightforward, possibly blunt, description of student life on campus written for college students. Make a point of not exaggerating or being ironic. There is a really good chance that your grandchildren might not pick up on the fact that you are kidding."

Sophomore Whitney M. Greene's first-place essay "does a thorough job of describing students' homes away from home," one judge said. "It does provide a picture of life in what will someday be seen as this primitive era." The piece describes the variety of housing options on UD's campus, from traditional residence halls to houses in the student neighborhood, and praises the "sense of community" on campus. Greene, a public relations major from Louisville, closes with a desire for future students, "I hope you have air conditioning, I hope there's more parking, and I hope your experience at UD is as great as mine has been."

Alison Knight, a sophomore communication management major from Cuyahoga Falls, described why safety concerns prompted the cancellation of Homecoming in her second-place piece. "Like any university, we have our problems. At this time, Homecoming is one of them. School officials are taking action to ensure that the reputation of the school is upheld, and ultimately to protect the unity of the students and alumni," she wrote. "I am confident that these issues will be resolved in an appropriate manner and Homecoming will once again be a vital tradition in 2051."

The judges liked the way Knight talked about tradition and the need for UD to confront its problems. "This sets it apart from the others," one said.

Travis Jeric, a junior political science major from Cleveland, wrote about student governance in his third-place essay. "SGA (Student Government Association) has always positioned themselves to represent the students with a strong voice," wrote Jeric, voicing concern about student apathy and periodic disagreements with the administration.

"Students want to make a difference, and this essay details how some students use the system to go about that," one judge observed. "Readers a half century from now will be fascinated by the control — or perhaps lack of control — students of this ancient age had over policies at UD."

The winning essays in both categories can be found at <http://alumni.udayton.edu>.

To arrange interviews with the winners or for more information about the contest, contact **Teri Rizvi** or **Tim Bete** at (937) 229-3241. For interviews about the sesquicentennial closing event, contact **Ken Kuntz** at (937) 229-3229 or (937) 294-4787 or **Susan Sauer**, chair of the sesquicentennial closing event, at (937) 229-2970.